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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/743,666	01/10/2001	Jeffery Raymond Ratkus	DN1998124US	5727

7590 01/21/2004

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EXAMINER

PRONE, JASON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/743,666

Applicant(s)

RATKUS ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Prone

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Still et al. in view of DE 1282914. Still et al. discloses the invention including a cutting apparatus for cutting ply stock (Abstract) along a cut line between first and second lateral edges (Figs. 5A and 6A), a knife assembly (49), means for moving the knife assembly toward and away from the ply stock (Figs. 16 and 17), means for traversing the knife assembly between a first and a second lateral edge of the ply stock (16), a blade (121) having a cutting portion (Fig. 23) including a leading point (123) and a leading and trailing edge having a length (122 and 124), that the ply stock has spaced first and second lateral edges (12), that the knife assembly traverses across the ply stock to provide severance of the material from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge (Fig. 10A), a means for heating the knife (Column 11 lines 58-65), that the knife is heated before inserting into the ply stock (Column 11 lines 58-65), that the heating means is near the first lateral edge of the ply stock (Column 11 lines 58-65), and that the leading edge of the cutting portion engages with the ply stock (Fig. 23) but fails to disclose that the knife assembly has a home position where the leading point of the blade is directly above an insertion point and that the distance between the first

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lateral edge and the insertion point is less than or equal to the length of the trailing edge. DE 1282914 teaches a knife assembly has a home position where the leading point of the blade is directly above an insertion point and that the distance between the first lateral edge and the insertion point is less than or equal to the length of the trailing edge (Fig. 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided Still et al. with insertion point, as taught by DE 1282914, to for an easier/ more precise method of cutting the first lateral edge.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Still et al. in view of DE 1282914 as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Murphy et al. Still et al. and DE 1282914 disclose the invention but fail to disclose an anvil with a slot aligned with the cut line. Murphy et al. teaches an anvil (36) with a slot (38) aligned with the cut line (Fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided Still et al. in view of DE 1282914 with an anvil, as taught by Murphy et al., to allow for a more efficient cut.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 9-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Prone whose telephone number is 703-605-4287. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Mon - (every other) Fri.

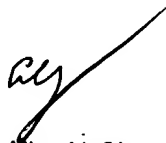
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'JP', consisting of several loops and a vertical stroke.

JP
January 16, 2004

A handwritten signature, likely 'Allan N. Shoap', featuring a prominent diagonal stroke and some smaller, less distinct markings.

Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700